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Good Afternoon distinguished Senators and Representatives and members of this committee,

I would like to demonstrate my **support of Raised House Bill 6734**.

My name is Andrew Bloom. I have been a licensed surety bail bondsman for almost 20 years, bail enforcement agent, and one of the owners of 3-D Bail Bonds, Inc. which employs about 20 people. I am also one of the owners of DADs Bail Bonds, LLC which over the years has represented nearly 10,000 bail bonds written a year, a longtime member of The Professional Bail Agents of The United States, and a founding member and current President of the Bail Agents of Connecticut Association.

In my career as a Bail Enforcement Agent and as president of the Fugitive Recovery Agency, Inc., I have nearly 1500 defendants arrested.

Bail Bonds is the only form of pretrial release to self monitor and self enforce non-compliance. No other form of pretrial release is held accountable or to the same standard, when the principal fails, as we are.

There are 5 important items related to surety bail bonds that this bill affects.

1. The most important change in bail affected by this bill that I support is the ability to revoke a bail bond from someone who is not making their payments on a payment plan, as afforded under CGS Chap. 700f, Sec. 38a-660c. This provision will give the teeth needed to insure that payments are being made and in turn strengthens the ability to collect the CT approved premium rates as stated under Sec. 38a-660b Sub. (a) which states "No surety bail bond agent shall execute a bail bond without charging the premium rate approved by the commissioner pursuant to chapter 701". In 2011 Public Act 11-45 passed which amongst many other things, allows for payment plans. This did not change the amount to be charged, only the time and terms of the collection of the funds. In the end, the intent of a judge for a \$5,000 bail bond is for someone to have to come up with \$500. If they are unable or refuse to pay, they should not be out on the bail bond. Several other states such as Oklahoma and North Carolina have similar laws.
2. Changing the requirement of filing civil action from mandatory to discretionary by changing "Shall" to "May" will help with the many small claims suits we have been required to file. My company presently has over 1000 small claims actions pending. At \$90 per filing, that's over \$90,000 paid to CT small claims courts. We are required to sue people even if they only owe us \$10. This is ridiculous. If you do not pay your insurance premium to your car insurance, they cancel the policy. They do not automatically sue you.

Thank you,

Andrew Bloom